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MATERIALS IN BRITISH ARCHIVES FOR AMERICAN COLONIAL HISTORY¹

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that for a hundred and fifty years our colonies were a part of the British empire, no systematic attempt has ever been made by British or American historians to discover the extent and value of the material contained in British archives relating to American history. Persistent and long search has frequently been made for documents bearing on a given subject or connected with the history of a given colony, but such investigation has usually been confined to well-known and fairly well-arranged collections, examination of which was comparatively easy and a successful result highly probable. Outlying sources, records relating to other than colonial subjects, and groups containing only occasional and isolated documents have remained largely unexplored; while even such compact and clearly defined collections as the Colonial Office papers have never been thoroughly and critically examined.

The time was therefore opportune for a more thoroughly organized attack upon the British records, and for the discovery, as far as human imperfection would allow, of all documents that directly or indirectly bear upon our history. Tedious though the work promised to be, it seemed to be justified by the possibility of obtaining even an approximate description of each isolated document, important or unimportant, and of each collection, great or small, that might some time be needed by future writers of our history.

The task was a large one, but two conditions proved eminently favorable to a rapid prosecution of the work: first, the concentration of the bulk of the material in a few great centers, like the British Museum and the Public Record Office; and secondly, the unfailing courtesy of the officials in charge as well as of many private individuals, who without exception did all in their power to promote the undertaking. In most cases, though not in all, the facilities for research are adequate for student purposes, and though hours seem short, notably at the Bodleian Library, the overzealous investigator is forced thereby to take a needed relaxation. Except occasionally in certain cases where the quarters are cramped and special search-rooms cannot be spared, the student will meet with few restrictions,

¹ This article is a preliminary report to the Bureau of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

and will be able to employ his time to the best advantage. Private collections, of which there are many in England, are not so readily accessible, and in a number of instances are closed entirely. It is much to be regretted that so many official papers are at the present time in private hands; for though many of them have been dealt with in the reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, it is well known that the earlier of these reports are in need of extended revision. Furthermore, many papers of an official character, which were deemed the private property of the official in authority at the time, have disappeared from view, and there seems to be no way of finding out whether they are in existence or not. A search for lost documents among private papers is a practical impossibility. One can only wish that more private collections would find their way into public depositories, either by gift or purchase, as in the case of the Hardwicke papers in the British Museum or the Shaftesbury papers in the Public Record Office.

The five depositories that may be deemed of first importance are the Bodleian Library, the British Museum, the Privy Council Office, the Royal Institution, and the Public Record Office. Other documents, though in no cases numerous, are in the archiepiscopal library at Lambeth, the episcopal library at Fulham, the library of Sion College, the library of the Geographical Society, and among the records of the Herald's office, the Old Bailey Proceedings, and the manuscripts in Somerset House and the Courts of Law. There are a few volumes relating to trade and to the Philippines in the India Office, which can be found in the catalogue of its manuscripts entitled, *Printed List of General Records, 1599 to 1879* (1902). A few papers, mostly duplicates, are to be found in the Owen Wynne collection in All Souls College, Oxford, and a few also in the Bibliotheca Pepysiana, Magdalene College, Cambridge. Of the latter a large number are copies of the Pepys papers in the Bodleian, but one manuscript volume is unique. It contains copies by Samuel Wiseman, "principal clerk to the Honorable Commissioners" who were sent to Virginia in 1676-1677, of all the documents connected with the work of that commission, many of which are not in the Public Record Office. Among the Pepys "Miscellanies" are also a number of papers relating to shipping and the plantations, among which are the report of the Council of Trade of 1660 to the king "concerning the Trade and Navigation of the kingdom," and one or two "Considerations" upon the Foreign Plantations, dated about 1684-1685. As was to have been expected, the Pepys papers relate largely to matters connected with the admiralty and the navy.

In the Bodleian Library the total number of documents relating

to American history is not large, and as a whole cannot be deemed of special importance. Some of them, however, are of value and serve to throw light into dark places and to extend our knowledge of matters hitherto imperfectly known. While there are a few groups of related documents, such as the Newman, Champante, and Clarendon papers, yet the majority have no connection with one another. Four only of the great collections, which have made the Bodleian Library justly famous, contain documents for our purpose: the Ashmolean, Tanner, Rawlinson (including the Pepys), and the Clarendon. Of these four, the first and second furnish scarcely a score of documents, while the third and fourth contain a very large number. The Ashmolean manuscripts give us the instructions to Gates and Lord Delaware and the procedure at the interment of William Lovelace¹; the Tanner, largely ecclesiastical in character and of a date not later than 1699, contain various papers and letters of Edward Randolph regarding the religious condition of New England, other similar letters from Massachusetts and Maryland, and the patent drawn up by Charles II for the erection of Virginia into a bishopric, of which another and slightly different copy is to be found among the Wynne papers. The Rawlinson Manuscripts, A, B, C, D, contain large numbers of papers of a miscellaneous character, from 1660 to about 1730. A contains many letters sent to Lord Arlington from America, and the papers which Pepys collected in order to clear himself from the charges of John Scott, among which is a petition, hitherto unknown, of John Winthrop for a charter for Connecticut. B has papers relating to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and its work of sending ministers to the colonies; and it also contains the large and very valuable collection of Champante papers, one hundred and thirty in number, relating to New York politics after 1700. C contains the papers of Henry Newman, secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and agent for New Hampshire, relating to that province; the Coxe papers (some of which are in A), which throw light on New Jersey; a large collection of log-books of ships; a mass of papers relating to the work of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in New England, with letters from John Eliot, Edward Winslow, Thomas Weld, and others, about 1651-1653; and other papers of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, of considerable importance for the churches in America, with letters from the governors and reports on the condition of religion there. D contains a few letters belonging to the Newman collection and copies of three letters from Thomas Newe, scholar of Exeter College,

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dated Charles Town, 1682, to his father, butler of the same college, giving an account of South Carolina. Many of the Clarendon papers have been printed in the *Collections* of the New York Historical Society and in Lister's *Life of Clarendon*, but there are others yet unprinted that show Clarendon's interest in colonies other than New York, as well as a series of papers of Clarendon's unworthy grandson, Cornbury, governor of New York. There are also many Downing letters, of which but few have to do with the colonies; copies of the proceedings at Boston between Massachusetts and the king's commissioners in 1665; and a copy of Maverick's *Description of New England*.

The number of documents in the British Museum relating to American history is enormous, and there is no royal road to their discovery. Great collections, such as the Newcastle, Bouquet, Haldimand, Auckland, Hardwicke, and Hutchinson papers, and a few marked volumes, such as Egerton, 2395, Additional Manuscripts, 33028-33030, 35907-35913, known to the officials in the manuscript-room, are easily found; and the great classified catalogue, arranged by subjects, directs attention to many particular documents. But when all these documents have been explored, there still remains a vast number of papers, to find which one must search the collection-catalogues. Pouring over catalogues and indexes is dreary work, and the task is the more difficult because the catalogue lists are frequently incomplete; and because some collections, such as the Newcastle and part of the Hardwicke papers, are not listed at all. If one is to be thorough, therefore, one must search not only in the classified catalogue and the collection-catalogues, but in the indexes also. To make the matter somewhat more complicated, older catalogues such as the Sloane, and groups of papers such as the Lauderdale, are undergoing rearrangement and renumbering, and in these, as in other cases, the classified catalogue is of no value. The task, therefore, of discovering isolated documents is not an easy one, and he would be a bold and self-confident investigator who after three months' labor dared say that he had discovered all.

Documents relating to American history are contained in one or other of nine great collections: Lansdowne, Harleian, Stowe, Sloane, Additional Manuscripts, Egerton, Hargrave, and Kings, with an occasional paper in Royal and in Egerton Biblical. Among the Lansdowne manuscripts are documents relating to the controversy in the church in Hartford in 1656, a portion of which are printed in the *Collections* of the Connecticut Historical Society; copies of a large number of papers sent from the Board of Trade

to Secretary Vernon in 1699 and relating to Nova Scotia and New York; Bishop Kennett's interleaved and annotated copy of the history of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, printed in 1706, and his commonplace-book, which contains copies of some important letters not to be found elsewhere; "An Alphabetical list of the names of authors of commercial books and pamphlets", containing 2,377 titles, of which 105 relate to the plantations or to their trade; original Indian deeds from Connecticut; the summary of a dispute in New York over the title to lands of the Wappinger Indians; many colonial quit-rent statistics; letters and papers relating to East Florida; and a few Revolutionary documents. Among the Harleian manuscripts are a few log-books of ships, a number of papers on the tobacco trade of the plantations; an account of Endecott's cutting out the cross from the king's flag; papers regarding the Palatines; a manuscript of Donne's *Virginia Reviewed*; letters bearing on the proposed appointment of Alexander Murray as bishop of Virginia in 1673; Simon d' Ewes's very important notes on New England; and Penn's letters to John Fenwick. In the Stowe collection are valuable letters from William Stoughton of Massachusetts; a group of Georgia documents of 1742; an account of Nelson's expedition to Canada (1682); Lord Warwick's correspondence on New England, Virginia, etc., in 1646, 1648; the Dudley-Belcher correspondence relative to the Princess Sophia's gift of her portrait to the Massachusetts Bay Colony; and transcripts of a great number of papers relating to the Stamp Act, the originals of which may be found elsewhere. In the Deering correspondence is a letter from North Carolina (1703) similar to those of Newe from South Carolina.

The Sloane collection, in process of recataloguing, is contained in the first 5,017 volumes of the series, of which the Additional Manuscripts is the continuation. As might have been expected, these combined collections, numbering nearly 37,000 volumes, are amazingly rich in Americana, and it is impossible here to do more than hint at the valuable documents they contain. In some of the early Sloane volumes there is a series of valuable voyages to the "South Seas", that is, to the west coast of South America, Mexico, and California; in later volumes we find many scattered voyages and descriptions (of great value) of New England, Maryland, New York, and Virginia; and a large number of letters and documents sent to the Royal Society concerning the flora and fauna of the colonies. We meet with the letters of a score of colonials interested in natural history, which do not bear out Dr. Eggleston's charge that colonial science was largely unintelligent credulity.

The early volumes of the Additional Manuscripts collection contain a great number of papers bearing on the origin and activity of the Board of Trade and on trade in general. Of great importance are the Cary letters and papers, which throw light on the Parliamentary struggle preceding the appointment of the board in 1696. There is a letter relating to Occam and the Indian school at Lebanon, and there are several letters from William Keith regarding his *History of the British Plantations*, besides a volume full of material for the student of early Congregationalism in Holland. There is here, as elsewhere, a great number of "states and accounts" of considerable value for a study of the financial relations between England and her colonies, of the customs revenue and officials, and of the costs of troops sent to America. There is a large number of volumes that came from the dispersed library of George Chalmers, bought by Rodd, the bookseller, and sold to the Museum in the forties. These are of the highest value as having to do with the Board of Trade and with the colonies, and we can only wonder by what process they came into the library of Chalmers, since they belong to the Board of Trade papers. Did Chalmers "borrow" them? There are other volumes that throw light on the character of the business brought before the Council of Trade of 1660; four volumes devoted to boundary disputes in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York; three volumes made up from the Newcastle papers that deal entirely with America and the West Indies; seven volumes from the Hardwicke collection that relate wholly to trade and the American plantations; and one entire volume and part of another relating to the iron industry, chiefly in Maryland. It is unnecessary to speak here at length of the Newcastle papers, numbering more than 200 volumes, in which there are hundreds of letters and other documents from and about America; or of the Bouquet papers, 17 volumes, and the Haldimand papers, 231 volumes, both of which are listed in Brymner's *Canadian Archives*; or of the Hutchinson papers, 14 volumes, containing the correspondence, letter-book, and diary of Thomas Hutchinson, the papers of Andrew Oliver, and letters to and from others of the Hutchinson family, chiefly in England; or of the Auckland papers, 59 volumes, of great importance for the early Revolutionary period, when William Eden was under-secretary of state, and for the years 1777-1778, when he came to America as a member of the peace commission; or of the recently acquired Hardwicke papers, of between three and four hundred volumes, some of which are still unbound, containing, among other matters relating to the plantations, the

briefs of many cases of appeal from the colonies, during the period from 1721 to 1766.

In no way inferior, so far as its relation to American history is concerned, is the Egerton collection of about 2,700 volumes. Egerton, 2395, has long been known to American students, since Mr. Walters gave a brief account of it in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* fifteen years ago. Many of the documents in this volume have been printed, but some of the most important, among which are the Povey and Noell papers concerning the erection of a council of trade and plantations, have not been used. In other Egerton volumes are letters from William Leete regarding the condition of New Haven in 1653, and from George Fenwick of the Saybrook colony regarding the sale of that colony to Connecticut. There are also Downing letters in large numbers, but of comparatively little value; a minute of a meeting of the Council of Trade in 1663 and other papers connected with the Board of Trade; and finally the journal of John Knepp, midshipman in H. M. S. *Rose*, William Phips, commander, 1683, a document of great length and of great interest. In Egerton Biblical is an occasional document, such as Dummer's proposal that a colony of Scotsmen be permitted to settle in Canada; in the Royal Manuscripts is a copy of Rolfe's *True Relation*; and in Additional Charters is a confirmation of the charter to Germantown in 1718, an important paper on the trade of the Spaniard "about the Asiento and Galeons", and what appears to be the original grant of part of Virginia to Lord Hopton, in two skins, with ribbon and seal. The Hargrave collection contains a few papers, chiefly of a legal character, such as the case of the governor of Virginia versus the Burgesses, June 18, 1754; and other cases and opinions on disputes concerning customs, particularly in connection with Maryland (similar papers are found in two volumes of the Additional Manuscripts collection), Pennsylvania, in the quarrel between Penn and Quarry, and Connecticut, in its controversy with Mason and the Mohegan Indians. One elaborate paper deals with the "different laws and modes respecting the barring of entails in the several American colonies", of date about 1773. In the King's Manuscripts are Franklin's letters to Cooper (1769-1774); Pownall's letters to Cooper (1769-1774); Cooper's letters to Franklin (1769-1775); a report on the state of the American colonies, containing copies of letters from colonial governors and others of dates from 1721 to 1766; reports on the state of manufactures, on the modes of granting land, and on the fees of office, received in answer to circulars sent out by the Board of Trade in 1766; descriptions of Nova Scotia, de Brahm's survey of the southern district,

1773, with beautiful maps in black and white; Braddock's journal; journal of an officer who traveled in America and the West Indies in 1764-1765;—all of which are of the highest value, many of them having already been printed. In all of the collections there is a large number of maps of great excellence and importance, of which there is an admirable catalogue.

In this rapid and cursory survey it has not been possible to do more than indicate a few of the more striking papers, and to hint at the richness and importance of the entire collection. We next pass to the Privy Council Office, where the documents, of the very highest authority and worth, can be more easily described. First and foremost is the Privy Council Register, of which 99 volumes cover the period from 1613 to 1783; the volumes from 1603 to 1613 and from 1645 to 1649 are missing. These volumes are numbered according to reigns. Marginal headings make the task of searching easy, and there are excellent indexes, most of which were either made or extended by Greville, when clerk of the Privy Council. The importance of the volumes for colonial history begins with 1660, when the first standing committee for foreign plantations was appointed, and continues without diminution until the Revolution. Though the orders of and in council were generally sent to the departmental boards concerned, yet many petitions were acted upon by the committees of the council itself and never passed out of their hands. Consequently there is in the register a large amount of material of the first importance that cannot be found elsewhere. All things considered, this series of volumes is the most valuable single collection of documentary evidence for a study of the policy of Great Britain toward the colonies that we have. It is to be hoped that some day the volumes, for which no suitable place of deposit exists in the present building in Whitehall, will be transferred to the Public Record Office; and that a copy of such portions as relate to American affairs will be brought to this country.

In addition to the register, there are a few important volumes in the Board room of the Council—minutes of the committee for Ireland, a register of admiralty and naval affairs, and thirteen volumes of "Plantation Books". The latter collection, covering the years from 1677 to 1784, contains copies of acts, laws, charters, letters to governors, commissions and instructions of all kinds, orders, surrenders, commissions of review and inquiry, confirmations, letters of marque, warrants of every description, circulars, and occasional grants of land—all relating to the colonies. Such a mass of material of this kind, gathered in one place, whether the documents are to be found elsewhere or not, is a mine of information for colonial

history. In the same room are seven volumes, containing an almost complete set of royal proclamations issued from 1613 to 1819. In the clerk's room is a Precedent Book of considerable interest. On the ground floor, inconveniently housed, are the unbound papers, tied in packets, and dating from 1699, with a few of earlier years. There are from 150 to 160 packets in all, covering the period from 1699 to 1783. The documents, folded and often mutilated, are arranged chronologically, but there is no index or other clue to their contents. Here may be found the original petitions sent to the king in council, with many other papers containing either the additional evidence in the case or the reports of departments or committees. A majority of these reports are duplicates, but again not all, as I found papers here that were neither in the register nor in the departmental records. There are many petitions for grants of land, and a few petitions for patents, memorials from departments, and the like. In studying a particular period it would always be wise, and it would be easier, to examine the register and the unbound papers of a given date before looking into the papers of the departments.

Of the manuscripts relating to America preserved in the Royal Institution little need be said here, for the last volume that has been issued by the Historical Manuscripts Commission, the first of a series, with two or possibly three volumes to follow, contains a full description of the papers and a calendar of about a fourth of them. The documents relate entirely to the period of the Revolution and are contained in 58 bound volumes and 4 cases or rolls—62 in all. Many of these have been printed, and many are duplicates of papers in the Public Record Office and elsewhere. But the collection is still necessary to every student of the Revolutionary period, particularly of the years 1782 and 1783. The earlier letters of Howe, Clinton, and others are to a large extent duplicates, but the later papers, consisting to a considerable extent of accounts, warrants, certificates, muster-rolls, lists, orders, inquisitions, memorials, and petitions, are original. Further information can be obtained from the admirable introduction to the report of the commission.

As an archive-center the Public Record Office surpasses all others in the value and comprehensiveness of its materials. Except for certain well-defined, catalogued, and calendared collections, such as the Colonial Office papers, the scope of the material for American history is not known even to the officials in charge, so that the investigator who would make a systematic search is bound to be in large part a pioneer. Even the preliminary task of mapping out the field is by no means an easy one, as there are comparatively few

guides to the collections in which the material desired is to be found, and the printed or manuscript lists do not always disclose by their descriptions the desired sources.

The following general groups contain practically all the material in the Record Office for colonial history: (1) Admiralty, (2) Audit and Pipe Offices, (3) Abolished Offices, (4) Colonial Office, (5) Courts of Chancery, King's Bench, and Exchequer, (6) Foreign Office, (7) Home Office, (8) Treasury, (9) War Office, and (10) a few miscellaneous collections. The number of volumes listed under these several titles runs into the thousands and presents to the student a discouragingly formidable mass of material. There are printed lists of the Admiralty papers, the Colonial Office papers, the rolls of declared accounts in the Audit and Pipe Offices, the Foreign Office papers, the State Papers, Domestic, and the Home Office papers. There is in preparation an index to the Chancery files. In using these lists three difficulties arise. First, except for the Admiralty, Declared Accounts, and Chancery indexes, there is scarcely one of the printed lists that does not need considerable revision and extension, and the old Colonial Office list has been withdrawn from circulation until a new one shall be prepared. Secondly, inasmuch as the volumes in all the collections contain documents relating to other than American subjects, the descriptions in the lists often do not show whether or not the volumes will be of any use, and unless one is very careful or has the gift of prescience, he will spend a great deal of his time and that of the long-suffering attendant in calling out volumes that contain nothing for his purpose. Thirdly, the collections themselves are undergoing more or less frequent rearrangement and renumbering, so that the references of a decade ago are often of no value to-day. While volume numbers can be depended on, bundle numbers are liable to change. A new system having recently been decided upon, the Admiralty list is almost the only one in a form likely to remain permanent. Because of these conditions the preliminary task of making out a working list of the volumes to be called out is itself long and arduous, and as clue leads to clue, and one set of documents refers across to another, even the carefully wrought preliminary list will undergo modification as the work goes on. There are manuscript lists of those collections for which no printed list has yet been issued, but prepared as they have been for the use of officials, by different persons, who were often unfamiliar with the subject-matter of the volumes, and in many cases much altered to suit the new arrangement, they demand of the searcher time and experience to be used to the best advantage.

The only portions of this material that have been used hitherto

by students of American history are the Colonial Office papers and the documents of correspondence in the Admiralty and War Office records. But even the Colonial Office papers, familiar as they are, embrace hundreds of volumes that have scarcely been examined at all—volumes that are labeled with the name of a West Indian or Canadian colony and so have been deemed outside the scope of the investigation. Yet many of these volumes contain material of the first importance for the history of colonial trade and revenue, and of British policy in general. For example in Bahamas, E (1760–1768) half the volume is taken up with the commercial history of New York and New England, particularly Rhode Island. Even within the continental colonies the listed divisions are often quite arbitrary, as when a volume labeled “South Carolina” is found to be half full of documents relating to Georgia. Furthermore even Public Record officials are human and errors have crept into the lists, both in numbering and description. Volume 29 of the Journal has nothing to do with the Board of Trade; some of the Naval Office lists are in the wrong divisions and are lost to the student; and others conceal their identity under a general title that throws one entirely off the scent. An entry-book of the Council of Trade and Plantations of 1672 is in the division Board of Trade Commercial; a collection of West Florida documents is labeled “West Indies”; and there are other disguises equally noteworthy. Systematic search has certain beneficial results: it not only leads to the discovery of new materials, but it corrects errors in dates and numbering, calls attention to duplicates, identifies missing volumes or scattered members that should be reunited, and, perhaps most important of all, renders possible a more exact definition than now exists of the contents of individual volumes or groups of volumes.

The work of calendaring is going on rapidly, though as yet no attempt has been made to calendar the documents of the Admiralty, War Office, Foreign Office (except for Elizabeth's reign), and Courts of Law. In the case of the last-named, the printed index to the Chancery files, 1649–1714, now in preparation, has almost the value of a calendar; and the manuscript index in the literary search-room to the dockets of Signet bills, the index to the Privy Seal dockets in the Home Office papers, and the index to the patent-rolls (Palmer's index, vol. 38, in literary search-room and index to patent-rolls, vols. 35 and following, in legal search-room) answer somewhat the same purpose. The calendar of the Colonial Office papers has only reached 1697 with its fifteenth volume, the tenth of America and West Indies. The calendar of State Papers, Domestic, which includes Home Office papers to 1760, has been

carried through 1694, except that the period from 1675 to 1689 has not been dealt with. The reigns of Anne and George II are calendared in manuscript, and the omitted portion of William's reign and the reign of George I are to be calendared eventually. After 1760 the Home Office papers are calendared under their own title as far as 1775, which date, twenty years ago, marked the time limit of these documents open to the public. The earliest calendars of the Treasury papers, covering the period from 1557 to 1728, include but one group of Treasury documents—the Original Correspondence or Treasury Board papers,—and take no account of the other papers and books of that department, except an occasional extract from the Minute Book. Under Mr. Shaw's editorship, however, an important change has been made, and the Treasury calendars from 1729 to 1745 include material from all the departmental records, minute-books, warrant-books, letter-books, order-books, etc. Very properly they are called, as they ought to be, calendars of Treasury Books and Papers. No attempt has been made to complete the earlier volumes, so that the full Treasury calendars cover a period of only sixteen years.

All the departmental records are eventually to be arranged in the following order: (1) In Letters, or all letters received by the board, constituting its original correspondence; (2) Out Letters, or copies of all letters written by the department entered in its letter-books or entry-books; (3) Accounts; (4) Registers; (5) Minutes; (6) Miscellanea; and sometimes, as in the case of the Treasury papers, it has become necessary to add a further subheading (7) Miscellanea, Various. This arrangement has been adopted for the first time in the printed Admiralty list, and the change has made havoc with the references of those who consulted the papers before the rearrangement was decided on. At present the scheme is far from complete; and in the transition from the old system to the new, involving the rejection of familiar reference titles, and many transfers, not only within a given group but from one group to another, the manuscript lists present considerable confusion. Where calendaring has been completed and references have been printed, change would seem very undesirable, yet in the State Papers, Domestic, references for the Cromwellian period have been entirely altered, and volumes have been transferred to other collections. It is not likely that the arrangement of the Colonial Office papers will be altered, as the present system is convenient and well understood; but the fact that, for convenience of calendaring, volumes have been broken up and documents redistributed as far as 1708, to which date the calendar has been carried in manuscript, renders uncertain the

policy to be adopted in the future. Against such distribution of documents, of no use to any one except the editor, it is legitimate for the student to raise an earnest protest.

The Admiralty records are open to public inspection as follows: Correspondence, Minutes, Registers, etc., with a few exceptions to the end of the year 1830; Log-Books and Journals to the end of the year 1840; Minute-Books and Pay-Books to the end of the year 1860. This regulation means, therefore, that with the exception of the "Letters relating to the Solicitor's Department" (Admiralty, Secretary's Department, 3665-3728) and "Law Officers' Opinions" (Admiralty, Miscellanea, 298-300), the entire body of Admiralty records during the period of our colonial history is accessible to the student. It is a general regulation that reports by the law-officers of the crown are not open to inspection.

The following résumé will show somewhat the character of the Admiralty documents of value for American history:

Admiralty, Secretary's Department, In Letters, 10 volumes of admirals' despatches, American stations, 1745-1779; letters from the Board of Trade, 2 volumes, 1697-1700, many of which are probably duplicates; original letters from governors of plantations, 4 volumes, 1728-1781, containing documents of great importance relating to admiralty matters of all kinds in the colonies (how many of these letters are duplicates only a careful investigation can show); letters from secretaries of state, 1698-1785, arranged chronologically and containing but little of value; letters from the Treasury, duplicating in many instances the Treasury letter-books, though only frequent testing can determine whether the Treasury preserved copies of all its letters; letters from the Custom House, 5 bundles, 1694-1699, of first importance, because Custom House letters are scarce; orders in council relating to admiralty matters, 36 volumes, 1673-1783, a most useful and convenient collection; letters from the Navy Board, 87 volumes, 1673-1719, full of information about victualing, convoys, and navy questions generally, with some new details about the voyage of the commissioners to Virginia in 1677 and Randolph's work in Massachusetts.

Admiralty, Secretary's Department, Out Letters: about 500 volumes, 1665-1783, containing copies of orders and instructions, secretary's letters, documents relating to colonial appointments, convoys, protection, etc.

Entry Books, 15 volumes, 1689-1783, containing letters relating to admiralty and vice-admiralty courts and business, vice-admiralty commissions, and letters of marque, papers concerning appointments, wrecks, embargoes, convoys, and fees, and a number of

documents relating to Captain Kidd and other pirates, about whom more can be found in Admiralty, Oyer and Terminer, 72 volumes, 1611-1800. These entry-books are an index to almost everything connected with vice-admiralty business in the colonies.

Pass Letter Books, 4 volumes, 1729-1786, contains all documents connected with the issuing of passes, chiefly for trade in the Mediterranean and for protection against Algerine pirates.

Original Patents, Vice Admiralty, furnishes one letters patent authorizing the appointment of a single vice-admiral and proper officers for a single court of vice-admiralty for all America.

Miscellanea contains a register of ships to which passes had been issued and gives both useful information regarding the movements of colonial vessels, and lists of transports licensed to go to America, abstracts of ship's logs, and a tabular statement of exports and imports, 1768-1769, from all colonial ports.

Admiralty, Accountant-General's Account, contains a few documents relating to the purchase of vessels during the American war, with tables of prices, and also many valuable statements of current expenses in America, 1746-1780; also muster-books of transports, a register of hired transports, 1754-1773, lists of ships, 1709-1717; papers and letters respecting loyalists put on board transports, regarding whom there is a very large amount of information in the Treasury papers. These accounts give names of ships, ports of departure, destinations, dates, and cost of victualing.

Admiralty, Navy Board, In Letters, nearly 1,300 volumes, 1673-1789, and Minutes, 170 volumes, 1729-1783, contain minutes of meetings of the board, and a very voluminous correspondence regarding naval stores, transports to America, bounties, victualing, and impressments.

Admiralty, Victualing Accounts, 5 volumes, contains the accounts of agents at yards and stations in North America, 1776-1783.

Log Books, of which there is an alphabetical list in the literary search-room, cannot be used unless the name of the ship is known.

The second great division of the Admiralty papers contains the records of the High Court of Admiralty and is of the greatest importance for certain aspects of colonial history. In the Libels and accompanying papers, Interrogatories, Examinations, etc., are the documents—decrees, libels, interrogatories, examinations, allegations, and sentences of a dozen or more suits connected with the early history of Virginia, Maryland, Plymouth, and Massachusetts Bay. The parchments are much mutilated, and it is not easy to discover in the various series of bundles and volumes all the papers

in the different suits, though to the libels and interrogatories there are manuscript catalogues, unfortunately incomplete.

Assignment Books and Sentences contains four volumes of proceedings before a special court of admiralty, which was instructed to deal with ships or goods taken from or belonging to the colonies after 1776.

Books of Acts, 48 volumes, 1604-1749, contains the records of each sitting of the high court, and furnishes a convenient register of the suits and a chronological history of each suit.

Admiralty, Miscellanea, volume 803, contains letters of marque issued against America in 1812-1814; and numbers 901-1341, an enormous series of 441 bundles, include great masses of papers that came at one time or another into the hands of the Admiralty board. These papers, ranging in date from 1620 to 1775, are without order or arrangement of any kind, and for the present, at least, are practically inaccessible to the student. In this collection Mr. R. G. Marsden discovered the Bradford letter printed in the *AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW* for January, 1903 (VIII, 294-301), and the as yet unpublished letters from Altham and Bridge. After an examination of about forty bundles I can say that the entire collection deserves to be arranged and catalogued.

Proceedings in Vice-Admiralty Courts contains a bundle of papers relating to prize-cases tried in Jamaica, 1747-1748, and another bundle of similar papers relating to Virginia, 1728, South Carolina, 1733-1734, Rhode Island, 1725, Pennsylvania, 1731, and New York, 1724. To this division, though listed elsewhere, belongs a group of papers (Admiralty Court, Prize Papers, bundles, 1821-1825) from the vice-admiralty court at New York, 1777-1783, of considerable interest and value. From their appearance I should judge that these documents had not been opened since they were sent from New York after the evacuation. In the Prize Papers are other documents from the vice-admiralty court at New York, 1739-1786, filed with similar papers from other courts, alphabetically arranged according to names of ships. Letters of Marque, Declarations, Volumes 60-70, 1777-1782, Bonds, 1 bundle, 1777-1780, contain bails, and letters issued against the colonies, 1777-1782; Assignment Books, 3 volumes, contain appeals in prize-cases from vice-admiralty courts in the colonies. The registry and muniment books of the High Court of Admiralty, 1660-1815, are deposited in the admiralty register in the Law Courts and contain a great many papers relating to colonial affairs.

A very fruitful source of information regarding the financial aspects of British colonial administration in the eighteenth century

is the Declared Accounts of the Audit and Pipe Offices. In this collection are more than eighty rolls containing financial statistics of unusual value for the period from 1704 to 1783, all of which are open to public inspection. These rolls contain the accounts of the paymasters-general of the forces, including the allowances to deputy paymasters, inspectors-general, superintendents of hospitals, deputy commissaries, superintendents of forage, quartermasters, commissaries for mustering troops, salaries, garrisons, and current expenses. They include also the expenses of companies in Newfoundland, New England, New York, and elsewhere, the expenses of Oglethorpe and his men from 1738 to 1743, the pay of Braddock and his staff and other expenses of that ill-fated expedition—in short the entire debit account of the British government in North America. The rolls, small at first, become large after 1755, and huge after 1776. In addition to the general charges mentioned above, we have the individual accounts of commissaries, barrackmasters, bridgemasters, contractors and purveyors, postmasters, muster-masters, and quartermasters; the itemized expenses of various expeditions, such as that of St. Leger against Fort Stanwix and that of Campbell against Georgia; an account of the disbursement of the appropriations granted by Parliament to New England, New York, and New Jersey, of the payments of loyalists and refugees, and of the expense of settling them in Nova Scotia. We have an account of customs and duties for 1767 to 1777, “the first general account of these revenues”; of presents to the Indians, 1755 (there are earlier accounts of Indian presents, 1748, in the Treasury papers); of the expenses of certain royal governors—Wentworth, Dinwiddie, Dunmore, and Tryon; of superintendents of Indian affairs; and among the most interesting of all, the account of John Locke as secretary and treasurer of the Council of Trade and Plantations, 1672, and the comptroller-general’s declaration of the general account of the duties arising from the attempted enforcement of the Stamp Act in the colonies, showing the receipts from the sale of stamped paper to distributors, the allowances for stamps and goods returned, and the losses of those who undertook to sell the stamps in America. Finally, there are the accounts submitted by the treasury solicitors, the legal officers of the treasury, of their expenses in the prosecution of various suits in which one or other of the colonies was interested. For example we note the following entry, “for the charges and expenses in the prosecuting a quo warranto against the corporation of Massachusetts Bay in New England and for obtaining judgment and seizing the liberties thereof . . . £181 . 9 . 10”.

Of all the departmental records none are more unwieldy than

those of the Treasury. Only the papers that precede the close of the year 1759 are open to public inspection, but permission to examine papers of later date may be obtained. Fees are charged, but the student whose object is strictly literary may be exempted from payment by making a special application.

Treasury, In Letters, or the Treasury Board papers, is probably the most important single collection of documents for American history in the Public Record Office, excepting the Colonial Office papers. An excellent idea of its character and value can be obtained from the calendar, which extends from 1577 to 1745. The volumes and bundles, which to 1783 number about 450 (all numbers after 1763 being bundles), are at present in process of rearrangement and relisting. The bundles are full of valuable material, among which may be noted a great many papers bearing on the history and work of the American Board of Customs Commissioners, 1768-1776, letters, memorials, and petitions of great variety, certificates witnessing the transportation of convicts, a report in 27 folios giving a history of the administration of the custom-house in Boston since 1707 and a lucid account of the trade of the colony, and a host of other papers from one of which we may take the following: "At Philadelphia a series of letters are [*sic*] publishing in the Chronicle, under the name of the Farmer's Letters, denying the right of Parliament to lay any tax whatever on the colonies, and as the author affects moderation and a parade of learning we consider them of the most mischievous tendency." It is not easy to exaggerate the interest and significance of this notable series of documents, which have never been used, so far as I know, for historical purposes. In the same division of In Letters are the Reference Books, 12 volumes, containing chronological entries of applications of one kind or another to the Treasury board, all applications from the colonies being referred to the auditor-general, Blathwayt, Walpole, or Cholmondeley, for an opinion; an Alphabetical Register, 4 volumes, of the petitions, with the comments of the board; a Register, 17 volumes, of papers chronologically arranged; and an Alphabetical-Numerical Register, 3 volumes, or index to every matter in the Treasury papers for the years 1777-1783.

The Treasury, Out Letters, consists of three sets: Letters relating to Customs, 32 volumes, 1667-1783, the later volumes of which are full of information regarding the customs service in the plantations; General Letters, 34 volumes, 1668-1783, of equal interest and value, but of a more general character; Various, a compact and convenient collection, containing two volumes known to the board as "America Books", relating wholly to the colonies and containing copies of all

commissions, warrants, letters patent, writs, privy seals, instructions, etc., of colonial officials (1763-1797), whose appointment was in the hands of the crown.

Of the great series of Treasury, Accounts, the only important groups for our purpose are the Quarterly Accounts in 396 volumes, 1701-1800, containing details of the plantation duty, the expenses of the customs establishments in America and of the officials, as far as they were paid salaries; and the Miscellanea, a collection of important statistical statements, such as, "Gross and Net Produce of all the Branches of the Revenue", and "The Receiver General's Annual Abstracts of Customs and New Impositions" (1746-1780), and other papers touching importation and exportation of iron, rice, sugar, and other commodities. The usefulness of these documents cannot be overestimated.

The Treasury, Registers, Military Establishments, 501 volumes, contains a complete record of these establishments in America by years from 1713 to 1783; though a similar list in the War Office goes back a few years earlier. Emigration, 3 bundles, contains lists, prepared by the custom-house, of all persons who sailed from London or the outports for the plantations from 1773 to 1776; the majority are indentured servants and redemptioners, and their names, ages, trades, and former residences are given, together with the reasons why they left England. Needless to say, these bundles contain material of exceptional interest for the genealogist.

The Treasury, Minute Books, 54 volumes, 1667-1783, supplements the original correspondence and gives the daily proceedings of the board. The volumes are well indexed and easy to use. The miscellaneous papers of the Treasury are divided into two groups: Miscellanea and Miscellanea, Various. The former contains the Order Books, 25 volumes, 1667-1783, with records of warrants for the payment of money in the colonies and statements of the funds against which such payments were to be charged; the Public Disposition Books, 43 volumes, of a character similar to that of the order-books; Warrants relating to Money, or Money Books, 56 volumes, 1676-1783, containing copies of warrants for the payment of customs officials, special commissions, shipmasters for the transportation of convicts, etc.—all of which are addressed to the auditor of the receipt and signed by the Lords of the Treasury; Warrants not relating to Money, 37 volumes, 1679-1786, including warrants for contracts, renewals of office, appointments, etc., having to do with the colonies—a collection of unmistakable value; Warrants, Early, 12 volumes, 1667-1687, having little about the plantations but quite a good deal about British policy; Warrants, Kings, 65

volumes, 1679-1763, containing letters patent, privy seals, royal sign manuals, etc., relating to colonial commissions, salaries, payments for civil establishments, medicines, troops, etc., and letters and instructions for colonial officials and agents. There are also in this collection five bundles dealing with payments to loyalist refugees, and a single bundle dealing with the later history of the loyalist claims and payments to 1820.

More important even than the Miscellanea is the Miscellanea, Various, of which about thirty volumes have to do with colonial affairs. The documents are largely financial in character, but incidentally throw light on other aspects of American history, such as the refugees, supplies for troops, intended expeditions, quit-rents (of North Carolina, a sort of directory of the landed proprietors of that colony in 1735), and other similar matters. There are four volumes of letters to and from commanders-in-chief in America, 1778-1783, and other volumes of accounts and correspondence of deputy paymasters, commissary-generals, and others in Canada and the continental colonies, touching provisions, equipments, warrants, lawsuits, presents to the Indians, appointments, revenue accounts, leaves of absence, and the like. There are naval office lists, shipping returns, lists of plantation bonds, and documents relating to the exchange of prisoners, 1779-1782, from which a complete statement could be compiled of the number and rank of the prisoners in American hands at the close of the war. There are also lists of provincial regiments, registers of commissaries' letters (1779-1782), accounts of moneys paid for secret service, pensions, and bounties (1721-1725), lists of pensions (1779-1782), accounts of imports and exports for 1728, giving a minutely detailed statement of great value for a study of trade relations at that date, an account of all ships belonging to the United States clearing from London, 1783-1784, and other statistical documents of unusual weight and utility for a study of English plantation trade and revenue in the eighteenth century. There are three bundles of papers containing the accounts of the Hessian troops engaged during the war, 1775-1779, with tables giving the exact names, ranks, and numbers of Brandenburg and Anspach forces in America, forming altogether one of the most complete rosters of the Hessians that we have. The documents are in French, German, and English. Finally this collection contains the entry-book of William Blathwayt, auditor-general of the plantations from 1680 to 1718, in three volumes, a work hitherto unknown and of the highest importance, for Blathwayt's reports to the Lords of the Treasury, as well as the deliberation of the Lords as recorded

in the Minute Books, add not a little to our knowledge of the details of colonial history.

Under the control of the Treasury were certain offices, since abolished, and certain commissions of inquiry, since expired, whose books and papers of date later than 1759 are open to inspection only by special permission. Of these offices and commissions three only come within the scope of our examination: the Royal African Company (1673-1821), and the commissions on American Loyalist Claims (1783-1803) and East Florida Claims. The papers of the Royal African Company, first arranged in 1894, date from 1662 to the dissolution of the company. They include a great number of journals, ledgers, invoice-books, cash-books and receipt-books, warrant-books and letter-books, miscellaneous books, some of which contain copies of letters "to the plantations"; five volumes of Barbados and Jamaica ledgers and nine volumes of stock ledgers. For the history of the slave-trade in its relation to the plantations, these volumes admirably supplement the *Calendars*. The papers of the Commission on Loyalist Claims deal with the payments under the fourth article of the treaty of 1783, stipulated to be made to those who had suffered losses in America on account of their loyalty to the British crown. They contain a history of the difficulties that followed between England and the United States until the convention of January, 1803, when a mutual agreement was reached and commissioners were appointed to carry the agreement into effect. Many of the papers are much injured, and in some cases the writing is almost illegible; a final arrangement of the papers has not as yet been made.

The War Office Records covering the entire period of our colonial history are open to public inspection without restriction. Many of the documents, particularly in War Office, In Letters, Original Correspondence (volumes 1-33, 421, 506-533), have already been used for historical purposes, and some have been transcribed and sent to this country. They consist of letters with enclosures from field-officers serving in America, 1778-1783, and from officers of provincial regiments of the same period, with muster-rolls and other military lists. They contain also garrison "states and returns", engineers' letters and papers, general hospital reports, quartermaster-general's statements, Hessian letters with rosters, military and provincial memorials, and letters and papers from the Indian department, ten volumes in all. Following these papers are three volumes of letters and despatches to the secretary or deputy secretary at war, which are indispensable for a study of the campaigns in America. It is impossible here to set forth the variety and extent of this cor-

respondence, which covers the period from 1756 to 1783. Supplemental to this collection is the correspondence of the Secretary of State with the Secretary at War concerning American affairs in the years 1776 to 1781. Worthy of special notice is volume thirty, labeled "West Indies, 1764", which contains documents of very considerable value for the early history of Alabama and Louisiana. Here is a great variety of papers, both original and copies, from Major Farmer of the Thirty-Fourth regiment, regarding the circumstances attending the evacuation of the left bank of the Mississippi, that is, the port of Mobile and the country adjoining, after the peace of 1763. All the documents are interesting and some are very valuable.

The War Office, Out Letters, Secretary of States' Entry Book, or what are sometimes called the War Office common letter-books, from volume 411 to volume 494 (1745-1783), contains apparently every order emanating from the War Office under instruction from the Secretary of State sent to a colonial officer or governor regarding any colonial movement. For the years 1775-1784 there are special "American Letter Books", classed under the heading War Office, Letter Books, Departmental, which deals with promotions, transfers, the disposition of troops, leaves of absence, warrants for courts-martial (also to be found in War Office, Entry Books, volumes 1-19), lists of vacancies, and forms of instructions, from which one infers that the government interfered but little in the management of affairs in America. Matters of rather minor detail are noted in these volumes, and scarcely any of the entries throw light on the general policy of the government. Occasionally, however, we meet with such a statement as this, written by Lord Barrington, the secretary, to General Howe: "it is farthest from my intention to divert the promotions in your army from the proper and regular channel". In a few instances the same letters are entered in both the "Common Letter Book" and the "America Book", and both series ought to be consulted. The "Private Letter Book", 3 volumes, 1751-1782, of War Office, Letter Books, Departmental, is of interest as dealing with advancements in the American staff. The documents are neither numerous nor very important, but occasionally contain statements not found in the formal notifications. War Office, Secretary of State, Marching Orders, 65 volumes, 1688-1783, contains embarkation orders for troops going to America and disembarkation orders for invalids and convalescents returning to England and for troops leaving America. Similar information can be obtained from a bundle, War Office, Embarkation Returns, 1758-1797. The whole matter of commissions in the British army in America can be

worked out by consulting the following series: Notification Books, 31 volumes, 1708-1783; Commission Books, 38 volumes, 1660-1783; and Home Office, Military Entry Books and Warrant Books. Lists of successions can be found in the Succession Books, volumes 1-4, 13-14, arranged both regimentally and chronologically. These volumes contain no entries concerning the officers of the provincial regiments. Information on that subject can be obtained from War Office, Monthly Returns, Foreign Stations, 8 volumes, 1776-1783, where rosters of the provincial and German troops will be found. The student may also be referred to a paper-bound folio volume in Treasury, Miscellanea, Various, bundle 179, and to the War Office, Establishment Books, Military, volume 171, 1783-1789, a bulky volume that should be used in connection with War Office, Annual Army Lists, numbers 164-166, which were made up for the purpose of meeting the claims of families of officers of the several provincial regiments in America raised prior to 1783. The first 46 volumes of War Office, Establishment Books, Military, 1685-1783, are the same as Treasury, Registers, Establishments, Military, except that they contain a few statistics of earlier date (1684-1699).

Of the Home Office papers the public is permitted to inspect only those preceding the end of the year 1779, but the student can obtain a written permit to search the papers after that date. The collection forms a body of documents peculiarly difficult to handle, partly because of the great number of volumes and partly because of the difficulty in determining from the lists what volumes contain matter relating to American history. The situation is somewhat further complicated by the fact that a Home Department was not created until 1785, and that consequently a sharp line cannot be drawn, before that date, between State Papers, Domestic, and Home Office records. The greater part of the Home Office documents prior to the year 1693 (excepting the years 1675-1689) have been calendared under the head of State Papers, Domestic; from 1693 to 1760 there are more than 250 volumes of uncalendared matter; and from 1760 to 1783 102 volumes, of which those as far as 1775 have been calendared under the title Home Office Records, including State Papers, Miscellanea. This latter collection formerly consisted of 500 bundles, most of which have now been dispersed, including the well-known "addresses to the king", printed in Force, *Archives*. Only 97 of these bundles remain to constitute the collection of Miscellanea, and of these very few (seven at most) have anything to do with American affairs. The other documents, those bound in volumes, are rich in Americana. Besides the State Papers, Domestic, there are the State Papers, Domestic, Petitions, first series,

7 volumes, 5 bundles (1708—time of George II); second series, 4 volumes (1760–1781); Petition Entry Books, 28 volumes, (1688–1760), of which the second series of State Papers, Domestic, Petitions, is really the continuation, full of important petitions from the colonies; Warrant Books, 30 volumes, 1609–1633; and Entry Books, 56 volumes, 1681–1779, containing but little of importance.

The Home Office records, listed under that title, consist, first, of letters sent by the secretaries of state to various other departments, such as the admiralty, ordnance, customs, war, and post-office, and to the Privy Council. These letters are accompanied by various enclosures (copies of letters, memorials, and the like), of which the original letters were copied (in full or in abstract) into the entry-books of the office; secondly, letters sent to the secretary of state from the same departments as well as from private individuals, and arranged by the clerks under such headings as Admiralty, Treasury, Ordnance, Circular Books, Ireland, etc. Warrants were entered separately in warrant-books, passes in books of passes, and other documents in their proper entry-books. It often happened that enclosures were not entered at all, and must be searched for in State Papers, Domestic, or among the Colonial Office papers. Of first importance are the papers in Home Office, Admiralty, volumes 166–198, 1775–1783, the greater part of which relate to America and consist of letters from the Lords of the Admiralty to the Secretary of State, with enclosures (both originals and copies) received from the admirals in American stations. Many of these enclosures are duplicates of papers in the Admiralty records. Admiralty Entry Books, 19 volumes, 1693–1784, contains entries of letters sent to the Lords of the Admiralty; Domestic Entry Books, 27 volumes, 1706–1785, contains a few American documents before 1772 but nothing after that date; Ordnance, 8 volumes, 1732–1784, contains useful letters from the Ordnance Office relating to the colonies, though after 1765 the number is small; Ordnance and War Office, 2 volumes, 1776–1782, includes chiefly entries of letters from Lord George Germain to the ordnance and war departments relating wholly to American affairs and therefore of considerable value.

Among the most useful of the Home Office records are the documents labeled Post Office, Treasury and Customs, and Custom House, Miscellanea. The first, in 9 bundles, 1704–1780, deals with the inauguration of the system of packet-boats to America and the West Indies, and throws much light on the mail facilities during the period 1756 to 1780, a matter of no little importance; the second, in 21 volumes, 1729–1783, contains papers of the utmost value for the period after 1775, showing the sources of much of Lord George

Germain's information and outlining his policy. It includes also original letters from the Custom House, with copies of enclosures, the originals of which have probably been destroyed; and extracts from ship-captains' letters, the contents of some of which are amusing, as the following extract will show. Under date of December 14, 1775, one captain writes, "This day a person came to this place who left Philadelphia the 3d of last month; he says that the Congress are quarrelling and in great confusion; that they have voted to establish the Presbyterian religion all over America; that this is carried by the New Englanders very much against the minds of the southern delegates as well as the Quakers". Custom House, Miscellanea, 1 volume, 1768-1775, is an entry-book of letters sent by the "register general of shipping over the ports under the management of the Honorable Board of Commissioners from No. America" to the collectors and comptrollers of customs at the different ports in the colonies from Halifax to Savannah. This is a valuable volume, supplemental to the Treasury Board papers, for any one wishing to study the career of the American Board of Customs Commissioners.

The Foreign Office records, which are open to public inspection to the end of the year 1780, after which date a written permit is required, need not detain us long. There is but one volume, covering the period before 1783, containing diplomatic papers relating to the United States. These include letters and papers from the American ministers, Franklin, Adams, and Jay, at Paris. They concern the preliminary articles of the treaty, the opening of ports, the extension of trade, various propositions for a definitive treaty, and the like. It would be necessary, however, for the student investigating the diplomacy of the period to search the French, Dutch, German (Hanoverian, Brunswicker, and Hessian), Prussian, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Swedish papers, where will be found documents of great importance in the communications of the various British ministers to the home government. A new classification of some of the Foreign Office papers is in progress.

In closing, attention may be called to three classes of papers belonging to our subject that cannot be dealt with here at length. In the Public Record Office are many groups of important documents, already more or less known to scholars: the Manchester papers, calendared in one of the reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission; the Shaftesbury papers, in part unpublished, but listed in the thirty-third Report of the deputy keeper; the Pitt despatches, soon to be edited and printed under the auspices of the Society of Colonial Dames; and the Cornwallis manuscripts, a number of which have been printed in the *Cornwallis-Clinton Correspondence*, edited

by B. F. Stevens. Secondly, in the various docket-books, in the collections of king's bills, signet bills, privy seals, king's sign manuals, and patent-rolls, and in the accounts of the Clerk of the Hanaper, there is ample information for any one desiring to trace the passage of a colonial charter through the seals; and in the records of the Chancery Court and the Court of King's Bench may be found the proceedings and fees connected with the vacation of colonial charters. Lastly, there is the great mass of Colonial Office papers, calendared to 1697 and contained in nearly 2,000 well-arranged volumes or bundles, an analysis of which is in itself a sufficient subject for a separate paper and can well be left for another time. Within a few years there have been discovered more than 600 volumes, classified under the title of Modern Trade papers and now known as Board of Trade, Commercial, two series, that must have been originally a part of the Board of Trade papers. I shall not attempt to describe these papers now. After a careful examination of the entire collection, I am convinced that, as compared with the other Board of Trade papers, these volumes and bundles contain but little of importance for colonial history. Single volumes are occasionally of value, but as a whole the collection is disappointing.

I have now passed in review some of the most important of the materials in British archives for American colonial history. Enough remains, however, undescribed to constitute a mass of material larger even than that which we have here presented. The Colonial Office papers, the ecclesiastical records, and the documents in private hands make up a formidable body of evidence, better known, however, than that contained in the departmental volumes. In time all this material will be made available for historical students, and while the extent of it is often discouraging and the content frequently disappointing, nevertheless it is a distinct gain if we know what there is and what it contains. Imperfect as I know my examination of these documents to have been, I find encouragement in the thought that even an imperfect examination, if it be neither inaccurate nor misleading, is better than no examination at all, and that better men will build on what their predecessors have tried to accomplish.

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